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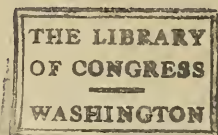
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A CALL TO PATRIOTIC SERVICE

Andrews, Mrs. Fannie Fern (Phillips)

A CALL TO PATRIOTIC SERVICE

To the Teachers of the United States:



We find ourselves today in war, a war encircling the greater part of civilized mankind. Whatever may be our view of the processes which have brought the world to this point, we have now to face the fact that the action of the nations is focussed on this gigantic conflict and that our own country is now involved in it.

We recognize that our Government has been loath to join the struggle and has entered into it only after long and searching deliberation. The will of the majority of Congress has declared war and it is the duty of all Americans to accept this mandate. The voice of law commands loyal and earnest service, and American patriotism will respond to the call. Service is the privilege of each and every citizen, and the measure of service is always the nation's need.

We enter upon this war, as stated by President Wilson, with "a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step . . . and of the grave responsibilities which it involves." We hope with him that we have made "clear to all the world what our motives and objects are," and we trust that during the war we shall remain faithful to the high traditions of America. To keep our minds and our hearts clear, let us refer often, as often as may be necessary, to the words of the President, who has struck the key-note of a new spirit, even in the tragedy of war. "Just because we fight without rancor and without selfish object, seeking nothing for ourselves but what we shall wish to share with all free peoples, we shall, I feel confident, conduct our operations as belligerents without passion and ourselves observe with proud punctilio the principles of right and of fair play we profess to be fighting for."

President Wilson challenges American patriotism in his plea "to conduct ourselves as belligerents in a high spirit of right and fairness because we act without animus." We shall have occasion, again and again, during the "fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us" to prove that our hearts are right and our traditions true. There will be none of the old passions of war. Our friendships need not be disturbed, and as the President says, we shall have an opportunity to prove this "in our daily attitude and actions toward the millions of men and women of German birth and native sympathy who live among us and share our life, . . . who are in fact loyal to their neighbors and to the

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Government in the hour of test." Consistent with all this, there will be an interchange of good-will, regardless of race or nationality. A cult of hatred has no place in free America, for tolerance is the first principle of democracy.

Let us scorn to hate. In the midst of the conflict, which is waged for international freedom, let us reassert our belief in law, the absolute prerequisite for a democratic world. While we fight, let us prepare for peace. President Wilson, in his great speech to the Senate on January 22, gave this note to the world. "The statesmen of the world," he said, "must plan for peace, and nations must adjust and accommodate their policy to it, as they have planned for war and made ready for pitiless contest and rivalry." During the last two and a half years, leaders of thought, wherever to be found, have pointed the way, and there exists today substantial agreement on many of the essentials necessary for the avoidance of war in the future. A judicial union of the nations and a permanent international conference have become familiar axioms in the plans for a durable peace.

Our entry into the war gives a new significance to this epoch-making speech of the President, when he stunned the world with his frank statement of the way and upon what terms the war should be ended. The principles enunciated he calls American principles, American policies, and yet he says, "They are the principles and policies of forward-looking men and women everywhere of every modern nation, of every enlightened community. They are the principles of mankind and must prevail."

With these high words before us, it becomes the patriotic duty of American citizens to study and to encourage the study of those plans put forward to achieve a definite concert of the Powers and a just war settlement. Let us keep this before our minds, for even though we achieve military success, we shall not be victorious unless our preparations for peace, backed by the voice of the people, come into full fruition at the close of the war.

What is the special service which teachers may render in this war? Anger, hate of other nations, should be kept from the school-room. The schools should maintain a civic and moral stability among the youth of the land. This is the opportunity to inspire anew a love for American institutions and American ideals. Civic service, appropriate to youth, imbued with devotion to the nation's need, would constitute a material support to the country in this time of national crisis. The school children of the United States could, for example, through home and school gardens, make a substantial offering to the problem of food production during the war. This and other forms of youthful service, consciously entered upon for the nation's good,



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would develop a sane and logical patriotism among a mighty bulwark for the welfare of any nation.

We shall not be true to our young citizens, however, if we withhold from them the hope of a new world order. If we are sincere in our plans for peace, we shall impart to those who will determine the life of the future the knowledge of those processes which we, according to our judgment, deem wise and practical. Nay, more, we shall inspire the youth of today with a vision of a different world. Truly, the next great forward step of humanity must begin in the schools.

Our efforts in this direction should not be interrupted. The observance of the Eighteenth of May, Peace Day, or International Day, which has been the program of the schools of this country and of other countries for over a decade, is of peculiar importance this year when we, through the voice of our President, are professedly waging war for international freedom and justice. We should teach the young people the way to freedom and justice. It is most fitting that the anniversary of the opening of the First Hague Conference, the starting point and the center of international law and order, should be celebrated in the schools this year. The observance of Peace Day offers an opportunity to point out the value of arbitration, conciliation and judicial settlement. The exercises might well recite the successes of the Arbitration Court at The Hague, established by the First Hague Conference. It is timely to call attention to the fifteen cases of disputes settled effectively by this arbitration tribunal, which was indeed fully competent to have settled the initial dispute in the present world conflict. Our young people should know of the proposed World Court, accepted in principle at the Second Hague Conference, and which is, among all the factors entering into a permanent peace plan, the one universally accepted. A Peace Day exercise this year offers a great opportunity to take note of these solid foundations of law and order.

On those who administer education in this critical time rests the responsibility of preserving and advancing those ideals for which all nations should strive and of establishing an unbroken unity of youthful civic service and devotion to the nation's welfare. May we in our hour of test still be able to maintain the American ideal of democracy and may the teachers of America continue to be the consecrated servants of the democratic ideal. God grant that on the pages of the world's history, the United States will stand out as a nation which remained true to its purpose in the service of humanity.

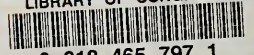
Faithfully yours,

FANNIE FERN ANDREWS.

Boston, Mass., April 10, 1917.

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